

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4131

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJECT: MORE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) PERSONNEL CHANGES

REF: KABUL 5614

1. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AUGUST 26 ANNOUNCED THREE CHANGES IN PROVINCIAL GOVERNORSHIPS. MOHAMMAD GUL WARDAK REPLACES DR. KHALIL AHMAD ABAWI IN JOWZJAN, FAQIR NABI ALAFI TAKES OVER FOR ABDUL SALAM IN BADGHIS AND MOHAMMAD HUSSEIN GARDEZI GOES TO LAGHAMAN FOR GOVERNOR KAZI.

2. ALAFI HAS MA IN LAW FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIV. AND WAS A LEGAL ADVISOR TO THEN PRIME MINISTER DAOUD IN 1953. HE SERVED AS GOVERNOR OF JOWZJAN IN 1971 AND WAS PREVIOUSLY GOVERNOR OF BALKH. WARDAK IS ANOTHER U.S.-TRAINED LAWYER WITH GOVERNMENT SERVICE SINCE 1960. HE SERVED AS DEPUTY GOVERNOR IN NANGRAHAR IN 1967. GARDEZI HAS SERVED AS GOVERNOR OF LAGHMAN BEFORE IN 1967.

3. GOVERNORS ARE OFTEN ROTATED IN THE SUMMER MONTHS

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(A NORMAL TOUR OF DUTY FOR GOVERNORS IS TWO YEARS.),

BUT WE NOTE THAT THESE THREE CHANGES ARE POLITICALLY CONSISTENT WITH OTHER MINISTRY OF INTERIOR CHANGES OF MID-AUGUST (REFTEL). ALL THREE APPOINTEES ARE EXPERIENCED CIVIL SERVANTS HAVING HELD KEY POSTS BEFORE THE JULY 1973 COUP D'ETAT. THESE PERSONNEL CHANGES WOULD INDICATE A CONTINUED POLICY OF REINTRODUCING TRUSTED AND PROVEN "MODERATE" FORCES INTO DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS.

4. DEPOSTED GOVERNORS ARE SAID TO BE ON "WAITING LIST" FOR NEW ASSIGNMENTS. EX-GOVERNOR KAZI'MAY HAVE LONG WAIT SINCE HE HAD SERVED IN LAGHMAN ONLY A FEW MONTHS. LAGHMAN WAS HARD HIT IN JULY DISTURBANCES (EVEN KAZI'S HOME WAS ATTACKED) AND WE READ HIS DISMISSAL AS A DEMOTION FOR POOR PERFORMANCE UNDER PRESSURE.
CURRAN

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